

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON LATIN AMERICA

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS ON
LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AT A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA TODAY:

Q: MR. SECRETARY: THERE IS INCREASING SPECULATION THAT
WE ARE NEAR SOME KIND OF AN OFFICIAL CHANGE IN OUR RELATION-
SHIP WITH CUBA, AND PREMIER CASTRO'S RETURN OF DOLS 2
MILLION TO SOUTHERN AIRWAYS COULD HEIGHTEN THAT KIND OF
SPECULATION. IS THERE ANY DEFINITIVE CHANGE THAT WE CAN
EXPECT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, LET'S SAY TWO OR THREE
MONTHS?

A: SECRETARY KISSINGER: OUR POLICY TOWARDS CUBA IS THAT
WE ARE PREPARED TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIP DEPENDING ON
WHAT STEPS CUBA IS PREPARED TO TAKE. OF COURSE,
ULTIMATELY, CUBA WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE THIS WITH THE
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND NOT WITH INDIVIDUAL LEGISLATORS
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THAT MAY BE INVITED TO CUBA. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME GESTURES

ON THE PART OF CUBA--SUCH AS THE RETURN OF THE DOLS 2 MILLION--WHICH WE WELCOME, AND WE ARE PREPARED TO CONDUCT A DIALOGUE WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE. WE HAVE NO FIXED TIME TABLE WHEN IMPROVEMENT CAN TAKE PLACE, AND, OF COURSE, THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IS MEETING NEXT MONTH ON THE GENERAL ISSUE OF THE SANCTIONS. SO THE CONDITIONS EXIST IN WHICH A DISCUSSION CAN TAKE PLACE.

Q: (INAUDIBLE ON TAPE)

A: SECRETARY KISSINGER: I THINK THAT RELATIONS WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT YEARS. WE HAVE PAID MORE ATTENTION TO THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. I THINK I'VE MET WITH MORE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE THAN ANY OF MY PREDECESSORS. AND WE CONSIDER WESTERN HEMISPHERE RELATIONS AS ABSOLUTELY CRUCIAL. IF WE CANNOT ESTABLISH CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH COUNTRIES THAT STAND SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING AND THE DEVELOPED PART OF THE WORLD, COUNTRIES WITH A SIMILAR HISTORY AND A COMPARABLE CULTURE, THEN THE WHOLE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIALIZED AND THE DEVELOPING WORLD WILL BE PROBLEMATICAL. OF COURSE, SINCE LATIN AMERICA IS IN ITSELF IN A STATE OF TRANSITION, THIS RELATIONSHIP IS BOUND TO BE UNEVEN AND THIS PROCESS OF TRANSITION IS BOUND TO CREATE OCCASIONAL TENSIONS AND THE INEVITABLE PROBLEMS OF ADJUSTMENT. BUT, I THINK WE ARE ON A GOOD COURSE IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE RECENT MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS WAS CONDUCTED IN THE LEAST POLEMICAL WAY, INDEED IN THE MOST CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER THAT ANY OBSERVER CAN RECALL. AND I BELIEVE WE ARE ON THE WAY TO SOLVING SOME

OF THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, AND WE PLAN TO GO ON TO SOME CONSTRUCTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS. KISSINGER

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